

Wednesday, 31st January, 1923

COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

(Official Report)

VOL. III, PART II

(24th January, 1923 to 27th March, 1923)

THIRD SESSION

OF THE

COUNCIL OF STATE, 1923.



DELHI
GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS,
1923

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COUNCIL OF STATE.

Wednesday, the 31st January, 1923.

The Council assembled at Metcalfe House at Eleven of the Clock. The Honourable the President was in the Chair.

BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

The SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: Sir, in accordance with rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I lay on the table the Bills which were passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 30th January 1923. They are:

- A Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to the regulation and inspection of mines.
- A Bill further to amend the Cantonments House Accommodation Act.
- A Bill to provide for the restriction and control of the transport of cotton in certain circumstances.

GIFT OF BOOKS BY SIR WILLIAM GEARY.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Before we proceed to the business of the day, I have to announce to the Council that a very valuable acquisition has been received to the Library of the Indian Legislature which we share with the Assembly. An eminent lawyer, Sir William Geary, who was at one time Attorney General of the Gold Coast and who served in India in the Army during the war, entered into communication with my Honourable colleague Sir Frederick Whyte, and as a result has presented to the Library of the Legislature a number of Parliamentary Reports and other publications. They are, I think the Council will agree, of a very interesting and valuable character. For example, I see they include the complete Parliamentary Debates for the years 1668-1741 and a number of old Parliamentary Journals and Reports which, I think Honourable Members will agree, we shall be very glad indeed to have in our library. I therefore think the Council will certainly desire me to direct the Secretary of the Council to write and convey the thanks of the Council to the donor for this very thoughtful and benevolent act. (Applause.)

THE INDIAN COTTON CESS BILL—REFERENCE TO JOINT COMMITTEE.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I do not know what would be the most convenient course with reference to the business to-day. If the Honourable the Leader of the House agrees, it might be well perhaps to get rid of the motion regarding the appointment of a Joint Committee.

The HONOURABLE DR. MIAN SIR MUHAMMAD SHAFI (Law Member): Yes, Sir.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Then I will ask the Honourable Mr. Sarma to move that motion.

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA (Revenue and Agriculture Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Council do agree to the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly that the Bill to provide for the creation of a fund for the improvement and development of the growing, marketing and manufacture of cotton in India be referred to a Joint Committee of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly and that the Joint Committee do consist of 12 members."

Before I ask the House to accept this motion, I feel sure they will expect me to give them a short history of the genesis of this measure and the reasons which have induced the Government to undertake this piece of legislation. I feel sure that Honourable Members will be convinced that this measure is intended for the benefit of the agriculturist, of the manufacturer and the general consumer alike and not of one class to the detriment of the other. Government would not have undertaken this measure at all if they had felt that there was any conflict of interest between one community and the other and that they were promoting the interest of one community to the detriment of the other. I make this incidental remark because I know that in certain quarters there is a prejudice that the Government undertake measures for the promotion of the growth of cotton at the expense of food crops, that they encourage the growth of cotton for the benefit of Lancashire and that, therefore, they would be better advised in promoting the development of the essential requisites of the country, namely, foodstuffs, and show less zeal in the promotion of the cotton industry. I have heard this remark made more than once and that is the reason why I am alluding to it in particular to-day. Food and cloth are recognised to be essential needs and no Government can justify its existence when it does not promote the welfare of the community by providing for both in adequate abundance and at cheap cost. Experts in cotton and businessmen alike have been concerned for some time past about the hardship which the community would be put to by a world shortage of cotton of superior long staple quality, thereby not only handicapping industry but also raising incidentally the price of cotton cloth throughout the world. The Government of India were equally impressed with the necessity of doing all that they could to promote the cotton industry in this country and therefore appointed a Committee in 1917-18 to see what could be done in the way of developing the industry. The Committee made after an elaborate inquiry various recommendations into all of which it is unnecessary for me to go at the present moment. There are, however, two or three relevant recommendations, with one of which particularly we have to deal to-day. They recommended the appointment of a Central Cotton Committee, the promotion of research and the imposition of a cess of 8 annas per bale for the promotion of research and agricultural improvement generally throughout India. They were induced to make this recommendation on the strength of the evidence that they had obtained before them as being desirable in the interests of the country, who also thought that, if anything could be done to improve the yield and the quality of cotton, the Government should not hesitate to adopt the necessary measures. Honourable Members will realise, when we have an area approximately averaging 22½ million acres with only 85 pounds per acre as against 200 in America, the magnitude of the problem and the necessity for promoting this agricultural industry to the best of our power. The Government accepted the recommendation of the Cotton Committee and appointed a Central Board which has cost the Government nearly a lakh of rupees a year and the Committee has been doing excellent work since the period of its inauguration. They were not able, in view of the reformed

constitution, to agree at the time to the recommendation of the imposition of the cess because they believed that, agriculture being a transferred subject, it would be more within the province of the provincial Governments to promote the kind of research which the Committee had in view. The Central Committee recommended to the Government of India strongly the desirability of imposing the proposed cess in the interests of the consumer, the manufacturer and the agriculturist himself and in the interests of research which is a central subject. You will ask me naturally, how is the agriculturist interested in it? Honourable Members will realise that out of about four million and a half bales of cotton, excluding that which is consumed by handloom, half the net produce is exported—i.e., about 20 lakhs of bales. It is doubtful as to whether India would be able to command always the same market which it does at present for its short staple cottons. Secondly, the price would naturally be lower than for the long staple cottons. The yield is poor, as I have already said, and it is therefore to the interest of the agriculturist to be able to produce long staple cotton which will yield more and which will have the hardihood to stand the climatic conditions of the country. Then the manufacturer is interested because he is importing a large quantity of yarn and if the mill industry is to flourish it is necessary that he should be able to obtain local supplies of long staple yarn which are absolutely vital to the continuance of the prosperity of the cotton industry. The general consumer is interested because if there is a world shortage of cotton of the long staple variety, the price of cloth goes up naturally with the shortage of cotton and he would have to pay phenomenally high prices as he had to pay during the war when there was a dislocation of trade and there was a shortage of cotton crop. Naturally, therefore, all parties are interested, and I may venture to state that even the non-co-operators for once, I think, would be able to see eye to eye with the Government that this is a measure which is calculated to promote an industry which they have at heart. The Government of India reviewed their position and found that there was much in the statement that 'Research' being a central subject, they should consult the Local Governments and obtain the views of the Local Governments and of the various commercial bodies and interested persons, and they proceeded to do so. All the Local Governments are practically unanimous on the question of the desirability of imposing a cess for the promotion of the cotton industry. There were slight shades of difference of opinion as regards the nature of the control that ought to be exercised in respect of the expenditure of the money that may be raised. as to whether the cess need be at the rate of four annas, as to whether it should be imposed only on mill-consumed cotton or on exports as well. But the Government of India, having regard to the vastness of the field of activity, having regard to the expenditure with which they would be faced if the subject is to be tackled and handled correctly, have resolved that it would not be too much to ask the Legislature to agree to the imposition of a cess of four annas on all commercial cotton as there was a vast majority of preponderance of opinion in its favour. I may state that I am supported in this particular by the Fiscal Commission who, while objecting generally to the imposition of any export duty, find no objection whatsoever to the imposition of a small cess, especially with the consent of all the parties concerned. I may refer to paragraph 184 of their report wherein they say:

"We have not referred to small cesses such as those on tea and lac, which while levied on exports do not go into the general revenues but are devoted solely to the improvement of the industries on which they are placed. It is obvious that being levied with the consent of the producers and for their benefit, they cannot be open to the ordinary objections which apply to export duties."

[Mr. B. N. Sarma.]

Honourable Members will realise that a cess of four annas on a bale which may be taken to cost on an average at the present moment about Rs. 200 would work out to 1/800th part of the cost, which is a very small fraction indeed, and if the price goes up, as it did, to about Rs. 800 to Rs. 1,000, though it is not likely to do so, the nature of the impost would be still lighter. Therefore, objection cannot be taken, I think, on the score that the impost would be very heavy, but this is a matter which can be considered further by the Joint Committee and it would necessarily receive the attention of the House when the Bill emerges from the Joint Committee. I am only placing before the House at the present moment the reason why Government have adopted this particular attitude.

Then, with regard to the control which the Government seeks to exercise, I need hardly say that they have examined the position very carefully and have found that having regard to the conflicting interests between province and province, between the promotion of research work in its purely agricultural and manufacturing aspects, as to how much is to be allowed to the various provinces for the promotion of special studies, for the promotion of studentships and so on, and having also regard to the fact that Indian States who were consenting parties largely are represented on the Central Committee, it was absolutely necessary that they should retain control with regard to the disposition of this cess. They have agreed that the proceeds of this cess should not be merged in the general revenues but should be earmarked only for the promotion of the cotton industry. Therefore, there is no likelihood of the Government being tempted to starve the essential object and utilise the proceeds for other general purposes. Inasmuch as that safeguard is secured, they may be trusted with the advice of the Central Committee in apportioning the money that is available for the various objects which would necessarily have to receive a share of the amount that would be contributed by the agriculturist and by all classes concerned. I need hardly go into the various questions which the Central Committee has been tackling. We have at heart the promotion of a Central Research Institute dealing chiefly with cotton breeding and cotton selection processes. The Empire Cotton Association have gone into this question at very great length and have found that it is absolutely essential to promote central research institutes for these purposes. I would read a small extract as to the nature of the objects which have to be kept in mind: "The growing of cotton, the essential character of the cotton plant and the temporary modifications of lint brought about by the various local conditions under which it may be grown, the effects of heredity by which the constitution of the cotton plant is determined and can be controlled, the effects of limitations and environments such as the seasonal period available for growth, the temperature, rainfall and humidity, the characteristics of the soil, bacteriological, fungoid and insect organisms and a study thereof—these are some of the problems that have to be forced." These may be divided into two groups, local and general. A central research institute would be necessary to undertake a study of the life of the cotton plant and the development of its lint, and they have recommended also studentships and readerships for the purpose of promoting expert knowledge, and that is one of the objects which the Central Cotton Committee and the Government of India have in view. They propose to utilise this money for research purposes and for the constitution of this institute. I have alluded to this aspect at some length because I wish to justify the action of the Government in undertaking this measure when *prima facie* it may look as though agriculture being a

provincial subject, the Government of India has nothing to do with it. The matter is of great importance, because it has been found that there has been a set-back in the Punjab, especially owing to difficulties that the Agricultural Department have been finding in suiting conditions to the growth of long staple cotton in that particular province. There are various problems affecting large tracts of the country, not confined by territorial or provincial barriers. For instance, any investigation with regard to the black cotton soils will be useful not merely to the Berars, not merely to the Central India, but also to Madras and various other places where the black cotton soil obtains. The Upper India conditions would apply equally to the Punjab, the United Provinces and other places. Therefore, the research to be undertaken is not confined to a particular province and that is the justification for the Government of India embarking on this enterprise. I do not think that there is any justification for taking up the time of the Council at greater length and I hope I have shown the necessity for a measure of this kind, especially when the Government of India is short of funds and is not in a position to meet an expenditure of this kind from their general revenues, that this is an object which falls within the peculiar province of the Government of India, that almost all Local Governments and almost everybody consulted have agreed to the principle of this measure, that it does not present any affront whatever to any economic theory and that it is of vast importance to the agriculturist, the manufacturer and the general consumer. And it was felt that, inasmuch as we have experts in cotton and cotton growing both on the agricultural and manufacturing sides in this House and in the Assembly, it was desirable to refer this Bill for the sake of convenience, for saving time and for obtaining the best advice, to a Joint Committee of the two Houses. The Legislative Assembly has agreed to the appointment of a Joint Committee and I now ask that this House should agree to the course that has been proposed by the Assembly.

The HONOURABLE MR. PURSHOTAMDAS THAKURDAS (Bombay: Nominated Non-Official): I rise to support the motion moved by the Honourable Member in charge. Not being intimate with the procedure followed by this House when any motion of this nature is brought before it, as I read the agenda last evening, I felt that this was more or less in the nature of a formal motion which would be moved by the Honourable Member and would meet with the approval of the House without any speeches. I am encouraged to say a few words in view of the details that the Honourable Member in charge has put before this House, and I think it my duty to say a few words regarding one or two points on which I differ from one of the main principles underlying this Bill.

Before I deal with that, Sir, I also feel I ought to correct, if I may say so, the impression that may have been conveyed by the Honourable Member that this measure is looked upon by people in the cotton trade outside this House with some sort of suspicion. The Honourable Member gives the impression to the House as if people outside who know anything at all about the cotton trade look upon this measure with suspicion.

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA: I am sorry if I have led to that impression. I was not alluding at all to any person who has given any thought to the subject or who is concerned with the cotton trade. I was alluding to the lay opinion of the general public who have a suspicion about the merits of cotton industry as opposed to food production.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PURSHOTAMDAS THAKURDAS: The lay public to which the Honourable Member said he referred is, perhaps to a certain extent, to be excused, if it has rushed to any opinion which may be called one of suspicion. There is rather a peculiar coincidence in this connection. The efforts of the Government of India in connection with any improvement in the growing and marketing of cotton have been brought forward twice till now during the last, I shall say, about 75 years. They were first put forward, and, carried also, immediately after the American War in the early sixties of the last century, and those efforts resulted in what was then called or known as the Cotton Frauds Act, an Act of which the commercial community subsequently got absolutely sick and tired and implored the Government that it should be removed. Since then, things were left to themselves as far as the cotton grower and the cotton merchant were concerned. We see a repetition of it after or during the last Great War. A Cotton Committee was appointed in 1917 and the result of it is the proposal that the Government of India now put forward. The lay public therefore rush to certain conclusions and many entertain suspicions about this measure. But it is very necessary, Sir, to point out the great and marked difference that exists between the measures taken in the early seventies of the last century and the measures which the Government of India now propose to take. It is this. In the early seventies, under the measures that were taken under the Cotton Frauds Act, all control was left with the Government officials pure and simple. The non-official commercial community were neither consulted nor had they anything to do with the control which the Government of India put on. The measures that the Government of India now suggest, and which, if I may say so, they have accepted at the suggestion of the non-official commercial community intimately acquainted with the cotton trade, put all responsibility for action more or less on the non-official commercial community, and the officials are there more or less as if they were to be the executive to carry out the decisions of the non-official commercial community. That is an enormous difference which, if brought to the notice of any of the lay public who have any suspicions, would simply be convincing that this measure is, as the Honourable Member said, to the interest of the grower in the first instance, and also materially to the interest of the cotton consumer in India. As long as India continues to export cotton, whether it is to Lancashire, or to Japan, or to China, or to the continent of Europe, it is quite possible that any improvement in the growth of cotton of better quality may do some good and may bring better quality to the consumers abroad. But I do not see any reason why Lancashire alone should be marked out for that. Japan, Italy, France, in fact, any country that buys our surplus cotton will enjoy the benefit, and I do not see the slightest reason why Lancashire should not share in it—I should like them to share in it much better than anybody else.

My main difference on the question of the Bill is on the score of the cess which, as it is proposed to be imposed on all cotton—either consumed locally or exported outside India, I feel, will fall on the grower. The Honourable Mover referred to the recommendation of the Fiscal Commission and read out a certain part of the relevant paragraph from its Report. I have not got the Report of the Fiscal Commission with me, but I have just jotted down the two conditions which the Fiscal Commission laid down as regards the cess, and one of the most important was the consent of *all parties concerned*. I really wonder if the Government of India can say that they have consulted the cotton grower in imposing or in proposing to impose

this duty on all cotton both consumed locally by mills and exported outside. This, I hope the Honourable Member will not challenge, will indirectly mean a tax on the grower. In the case of tea, the parallel will not do. Tea planters are more combined; they are a comparatively smaller set of people; they are, as the House knows, immensely more vocal and they are able to convey their ideas and decisions and, if I may say so, in some respects, they are able to bring considerable pressure to see that their views are attended to and their grievances removed. I do not think that the Honourable Member in charge will be able to say that the cotton growers of India are in anything like the position of tea planters at present or that they will be in anything like their position for the next few years. I therefore submit that falling back upon the Report of the Fiscal Commission to which the Honourable Member referred, it is not right, it is not proper for this House to agree to the imposition of the cess in a manner which will materially affect the price of cotton that the grower may get. I do not wish to labour this point further before this House. I find that the Honourable Member proposes to put me on the Joint Committee, and I will therefore have this point threshed out there, but I only thought it necessary, Sir, to point out that I feel that a cess should not be imposed on cotton that is exported from India.

Again I would ask the House not to misjudge me, because it would sound rather paradoxical, it would sound as if I am opposing the cess and that I want to let off the exporting houses. But as I may be able to show later on at the next reading, I feel that I am quite justified in that. I only propose to bring this to the notice of the House at this juncture.

Sir, I wish to correct another impression that the Honourable Member may have given,—I don't say he has, but at any rate it struck me as such. The Honourable Member said that cotton to-day sells at Rs. 200 per bale on the average

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA: I was told that inferior quality of cotton was sold at Rs. 160 per bale, on the average it would be Rs. 200.

The HONOURABLE MR. PURSHOTAMDAS THAKURDAS: He said that 4 annas per bale would work out to a very very small percentage. I am sorry the Honourable Member has put forward that plea, because I feel that on such matters this House should attach most importance to a principle. One cannot always say that a very small incidence at a certain figure will work out the same for ever. It is a question of principle; whether it is big or small, whether it works out to a 100th part of a pie or to one rupee, it matters little; but the question is whether the House is prepared to accept the principle that the cultivator should be taxed any more either directly or indirectly. I venture to submit, Sir, that later on, this may be the thin end of the wedge that may now be driven in. I feel that all the more because supposing cotton goes down to Rs. 100, as it has done—and indeed when the war broke out, it was sold at Rs. 40—then 4 annas a bale may work out to a considerably higher percentage than what the Honourable Member has worked out when the cotton is sold at Rs. 200. That is not my sole point. My point is this. Can the Honourable Member point out to me any civilized country in the West growing cotton where a direct tax is put on the grower? Can he point out to me any such tax in America which is by far the most important country growing cotton? If he cannot, then I hope he will, after discussion in the Joint Committee, see his way not to penalise the cotton grower in India any more than he has been

[Mr. Purshotamdas Thakurdas.]
by methods direct, and indirect, for part of which the commercial community are as guilty as anybody else.

The Honourable Member then referred to the Empire Cotton Growing Association. He read a certain extract, from their Report I presume. Would the Honourable Member tell the House, or if he prefers it, would he tell the Joint Committee when they meet, what contributions the Empire Cotton Growing Association have made to the various parts of the British Empire to encourage cotton growing and what contribution the Honourable Member expects from this body for the same purpose here? I wonder, Sir, if the Honourable Member has any information on that score available. It is quite possible he may not have. I would not have liked to raise this question myself, but as the Honourable Member himself has touched upon it, I venture to ask if he will give us that information either now or later on. I think this House and India generally should help the Empire Cotton Growing Association in every possible direction in growing as much cotton within India, of the best quality, as they possibly can; for I am one of those that believe that in course of time, nay almost in the next few years, India may be able to consume most of the cotton she grows; and any such efforts at the improvement of cotton either with our own revenues or with the revenues derived from the mills at present will benefit India herself. But whilst India continues to export cotton and whilst Lancashire continues to spend money for the improvement of important varieties of her imports of cotton, I think I am in order in asking what amount the Empire Cotton Growing Association are likely to give to India for the purpose.

I am afraid, Sir, I have detained the Council longer than I expected. But I wish to congratulate Government on this first step that they have taken at the suggestion, if I may use the word 'insistence,' of the commercial community in many respects. I hope the activities of Government in this direction will continue. I wish to emphasise that a measure like this can be successful only with the close co-operation of the commercial community, and by Government giving the greatest weight to the views expressed by the commercial community. After all, Government have the opportunity to weigh the various opinions before they decide, but I do hope, and I am quite sure that it is the intention of Government that the mistakes made in the Cotton Frauds Act and similar legislation in the early seventies will be avoided. If that is done, this measure cannot but bring great relief to the cultivator and other interests concerned. Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion put forward by the Honourable Mr. Sarma.

The HONOURABLE MR. V. G. KALE (Bombay: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to oppose the motion. Many of the arguments which have been advanced by the Honourable Mr. Purshotamdas, one should think, have gone against the very basic principle of the Bill, and yet he has thought it fit to support the motion before the House. I want, however, to place before the House certain considerations which have weighed with me in convincing me that the machinery which is proposed to be created for carrying out, as the House will agree, what is a laudable object, is unnecessary. What are, after all, the basic ideas contained in this Bill? The object is to improve the quantity of the yield of cotton in this country and also the quality of that cotton for the benefit of the producer, for the benefit, we are told, of the trader, and also for the benefit of the consumer. This is a praiseworthy object. We do want research in cotton cultivation;

we want better varieties of cotton to be grown in this country and we want that the value of our cotton and the yield of cotton should increase to the benefit of all people concerned. So far there is complete agreement. But it is proposed to constitute a Central Committee which will organise and supervise research; and in the near future a Cotton Institute may be started under its auspices. To this I say: Is not the Government of India competent to undertake this work of organizing research? Research work is a central subject, as has already been stated, and that work can be carried out by Imperial experts at Pusa—and if this is not possible in the case of cotton at Pusa, it can be done in other parts of the country, say, in Madras, Bombay or Poona, in Lahore, in Lyallpur and other places. I do not, therefore, see the necessity of constituting a special Board. The proposed Board seems to me to be a very unwieldy one, consisting of 32 members, and the Governor General has the power of nominating additional members, so that the total number may go up to 35 or 40. I do not see the necessity of such a large and bulky body and I do not understand what that body will be able to do. Then, it is expected, out of the proposed cotton cess, to secure a revenue of 7 or 8 lakhs of rupees a year. I do not think that that is a large amount which it will be impossible for the Government of India to spend or to find. After all, the cess will amount to a tax upon the people. Someone will have to pay that tax. According to some, the tax will fall upon the manufacturers. According to others, it will fall upon the producers. I personally think it will have a tendency more to fall upon the producers than upon anybody else. Why levy a new and an indirect tax upon the producer? The Government of India can spend out of its own general revenues, with contributions from the provinces if necessary, what amount will be required for the purpose of cotton improvement; and in that way we can obviate the necessity of this proposed cess altogether. It is becoming more and more the fashion in this country to levy cesses. There is a tea cess, an indigo cess, a lac cess. Now, here, we have a cotton cess proposed. Then there will be a sugar cess, then a jute cess. And there will be so many committees attached to them. Now we do not want so many cesses. This cess, in particular, will be strongly objected to outside, as it has already been objected to here, and that is the basic idea of the Bill. It has been attacked by my friend behind me, and, if that central idea is attacked, if there is to be no cess levied upon cotton, exported or consumed in the Indian mills, then the whole bottom is knocked out of the Bill. So, I object to this Bill on two grounds. First, on the ground of the cess being imposed and secondly, on the ground of the Committee that is proposed to be appointed. I think the Government of India can have a small Board of experts, if necessary, with representatives from the provinces. Such a small expert Board would be quite enough for the object in view, and similarly, it should not be an insuperable difficulty in the way of the Government of India to find money for the purpose of financing its cotton research. I want to make it quite clear that I fully appreciate the object of the Bill, namely, the promotion of research, the promotion of the development of the cotton industry in this country, either in its agricultural or in its manufacturing aspect. I have no objection to take to this primary object underlying the Bill. But I strongly object to the machinery that is sought to be created—the Cotton Board, and also to the cess which is going to be the source of finance for the Committee. I will not, Sir, detain the House with any further remarks of my own but I find it necessary to make one or two observations. The Honourable Mr. Sarma referred to a certain suspicion in the public mind, and my friend behind me

[Mr. V. G. Kale.]

tried to point out that there was no such suspicion, or at any rate, that there was no justification for the suspicion. If I understood the Honourable Mr. Sarma correctly, I think he was right in saying that there has been the opinion entertained in the country that the commercial crops like cotton are being extended at the cost of food crops. The price of food in this country has been rising. We certainly want more food to be grown in this country and commercial crops like cotton are competing with and expanding at the cost of food crops. So, that was the objection to which reference was made by the Honourable Mr. Sarma. If cotton growing is, however, promoted by way of improvement in the quality of cotton and if at the same time a continuous effort is made for the promotion of food crops in India, I do not think there is much in the objection to which reference was made and that is no reason why cotton growing should not be promoted. There is also no reason why improvements in quality as well as in yield should not be financed by the Government of India. Therefore, I will repeat that the objects which animate the Bill are praiseworthy, such as will receive support from all people, but I object to the agency, the machinery that is sought to be employed for gaining those objects. I think the existing machinery of the Government of India or some other simple machinery is quite enough. I do not wish to have a new Central Board, I do not wish to have any cess which ultimately will fall upon the producers. If the cess does not fall upon the producers, it is bound to fall on the consumers. My friends here who are concerned in the manufacture of cotton will take pretty good care to shift on the tax to the shoulders of the consumers. So, either the producer or the consumer will have to bear that tax and I object to any new cess being imposed. For these reasons, Sir, I oppose the motion.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab : Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the Resolution and I generally endorse the views which have been so ably put forward by my Honourable colleague Mr. Purshotamdas Thakurdas. In the Punjab, I may mention to the House, I had the privilege of growing Egyptian and American varieties of cotton in my estates. In fact, I was one of the few growers who took up this onerous task some fifteen years back. In the Punjab, in those days, the Agricultural Department was not founded and I can say, for the information of this House, that I had to experience very great difficulties. The Egyptian cotton which I grew failed and I had to incur heavy losses. Other varieties of cotton were tried and after all one of the varieties of American cotton succeeded and since that day, thanks to the Agricultural Department, American cotton is being grown on a much larger scale in the Punjab. I do feel the necessity of the constitution of the proposed Board as, from practical experience, I found that the existing machinery was not capable of giving enough encouragement to the growing of long staple cotton. As a spinner I had the experience of spinning my own cotton in my own mills and in the first year from the Egyptian which I produced from my own estate I was able to spin 70's. These 70's as well as the cotton which I grew in my own estate were sent to Manchester and the report was that they were nearly as good as the Egyptian. But unfortunately I found that with the seed which after ginning was supplied to my cultivators the quality of cotton deteriorated, and in the following year I was only able to spin 50's instead of 70's. This led to my giving up the growing of Egyptian cotton altogether, because we also got more trees and leaves than lint. Notwithstanding a certain variety of American

12 Noon.

cotton being found successful there was no great growing, and I as a spinner had to offer a premium of one rupee per maund on *kuppas* to the growers in the Punjab who would supply my mills with long staple cotton. I approached the Government also with a view to their giving some sort of inducement to the grower, but no such inducement was given. So, I feel that unless we have a fund from which we could encourage Zamindars in growing long staple cotton, such cultivation in the Punjab in particular is bound to suffer. I found that the seed was yearly deteriorating and that the yield per acre was poorer. I do not want to say anything about the details of this Bill because they will come up for consideration after they emerge from the Joint Committee.

The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I fully agree with what my Honourable friend Mr. Kale has said and I strongly oppose this measure. There is no question Sir, about the measures to be taken for the improvement of the growing and manufacture of cotton. That is one of the primary duties of the Government and all of us are ready to help the Government and to co-operate with them in this respect. But the question is whether for the purpose of this improvement and research work, any cess has to be put on the export of cotton. The question is not, as my Honourable friend Mr. Ram Saran Das said, about the experiments or improvements that should be done. The question is about the cess itself, and I think my Honourable friend Mr. Purshotamdas has clearly said that the consent of the growers should have been taken in this respect. So far as I am aware, this consent was not taken, and I think that before this motion was introduced, the consent of the growers in some form or other must have been taken. There are many Zamindars' associations in every province; there are other associations that may be consulted on this question, but nothing has been done on that point. As regards the suspicion, I may say a word. I think there is a suspicion like that which has been referred to by the Revenue Member and which has been negatived by my Honourable friend Mr. Purshotamdas. The feeling in the country is this, that the Government of India are going to help Lancashire and Liverpool manufacturers more than manufacturers in this country. So far as I know, the manufacturers in this country do not prepare cloth of the finer type. The long staple cotton will all be exported, and therefore efforts are being made here and there to improve the long staple cotton for the sake of other countries. I am not one with them. I do not say that I share that suspicion, but this suspicion is there. I may refer to an instance. When a Bill was introduced in the United Provinces Council some time ago to control the transport of cotton from one place to another place, that Bill was strongly opposed on this suspicion that these measures are being taken to hamper cotton from going from one place to another place and ultimately the people of other countries will be benefited. I do not know how far this suspicion is right, but as the representative of the Zamindars and the cotton growers it is my duty to put it before this House that the suspicion is there. Therefore, Sir, I say that while we thank the Government for taking steps to improve the growing and manufacture of cotton in this country, we strongly object to the imposition of any cess for this purpose. If money is required, the Government of India can set apart from the cotton excise duty that they already collect in the country a portion for this purpose, if necessary. But there is no need to put any new cess on the export of cotton.

The HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE (Berar: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, the primary object is to collect a fund, and that fund is to be collected for the four-fold object of improving, developing, marketing and manufacture of cotton. Out of these four objects, the last two, namely, the marketing and manufacture of cotton, have not been spoken to to-day. The whole discussion has been round improving and developing. Improving means, I suppose, introducing and planting the long staple cotton, and developing would probably mean—I do not know exactly whether it means anything else beyond expanding the area of cultivation of cotton. So, I take it, that this fund, at least as discussed to-day is intended to improve the quality of the cotton that is grown and to extend the area of cotton cultivation. If that be so, my province is one of those which grow cotton very largely. It might be said that we subsist practically on cotton. So, I have a few observations to make. One of these observations is that in my younger days—in the sixties, so far as I remember, when I was a small boy—we used to grow a very long staple cotton called *jadi*. Then came a change—I do not know how the idea arose—and they did not want to cultivate long staple cotton but wanted to cultivate short staple cotton that would grow early and would sell in time to pay land revenue. Land revenue is being collected now partly in February and partly in March on cotton. In the old Muhammadan years, the year was the *Fasli* year, that is from June to June, and we used to pay our revenue in the month of June. That is to say, after we grew our crops and sold them in the market at such price as we can get, and when we have money on hand and before sowing fresh cotton, we used to pay the revenue. That came handy. But during the British administration, there has been a change of the dates, and we had to pay revenue partly in January and partly in February, and now we pay partly in February and partly in March. That being so, people took to growing short staple cotton which grew quickly and which could be sold in time to pay the revenue. In that way, *jadi* went out of cultivation altogether and another variety called *bani*, which is a short staple cotton, came into vogue. I have not yet quite understood in what respect the investigation proposed is to be made. Is it to demonstrate that the short staple cotton is better than the long staple cotton or the long staple cotton is better than the short staple cotton? Then, if it is in regard to the use of manures, that, I suppose, is a subject by itself and belongs to the Department of Agriculture, and they have got a scientific way of finding out which manure is better than another and they are doing it. So, the scope of this investigation or research, as it is called, is not quite clear to me yet. Then, it is said that a fund is to be created for this purpose. But such a fund exists in my province. I do not speak from knowledge of the other provinces. In my own province, there are cotton markets, and these cotton markets collect one anna per bale. That is to keep up the market—to keep the place clean, to license the *Dalal* or the brokers that transact business there and for certain other purposes. They generally have a surplus in the end. I had the honour of presiding over the cotton market for some time and I know that we used to have some surplus. Not knowing what to do with it we planted some trees there for shade, we grew gardens and had flowers in them and so on. If these inquiries were made from these cotton market committees I believe it will be found that they have a large amount with them. So, no further fund need be created, and if it was to be created, after all, it was a matter of 9 or 10 lakhs of rupees; a sum which the Government of India could surely spare from out of the general revenues. Then, why have a new tax, why have a new cess? That is one objection which I feel to this motion. I shall be glad to have

information on the point if I could, but that is the objection I feel that if all the cotton market committees in India were consulted, they could easily, I suppose, between them make up 10 or 12 lakhs of rupees, without having to tax anybody at all.

The next point is that usually in matters of investigation, so far as I know, on the continent, at any rate, they utilise the universities. If they want a particular subject to be investigated and inquired into, they write to the universities and say, "This is a matter of interest, and in your laboratories your scientists and all those other people whom you teach and employ can find out all about it." Why should we in India have an investigation department or a department of scientific research? We have universities here, and they can be utilised for the purpose where there are laboratories and machinery. Why could not this be done there rather than be done by a special fund with special something and a machinery to itself? This looks like, or at least it looks to me to be, the beginning of a new department that is going to arise and likely to stay, because investigation and research never come to an end. We will now give them 9 lakhs of rupees. Later they will say this money is not enough, the expert requires Rs. 5,000 a month and so on, the laboratory requires so much and so on and they will ask for an increase, and later on again they will ask for increasing it still more, and the matter will go on multiplying. As I have once said, the tendency of modern civilisation is to multiply the machinery and take away the substance. For eating one ounce of food you require 20 tons of furniture. Something, like that will happen in this case and this Department will grow and stay for all time, and there might be another department added on. I am afraid of this and I do not like that we should proceed in that direction. There are very rich people, and very rich companies engaged in cotton trade. In England and elsewhere I find that the merchants employ experts as part of their machinery to see and investigate and facilitate and do whatever else they like to do. Why should not that be done in India? There are large interests, people very rich, rich millowners, they could keep an expert in their firms to find out how cotton can be best grown. They could experiment on their own lands, as my Honourable friend behind me did. We can have the assistance of the universities and the laboratories that are in being now, and then we have the Commercial Department also, there are experts in that and they know something about this. Between them they ought to be able to manage this. Why a special tax, a special committee, an all-India organisation as we should call it in popular language and all the paraphernalia of a Department, incipient at present but bidding fair to grow and grow very large? Why all this? For these reasons, I feel a doubt about this matter myself, though I am glad that the Honourable Revenue Member made it clear that there was no intention, and I believe also that there was no such intention as is popularly attributed, but at the same time, it must be said that the whole arrangement looks rather ominous and looks as if it is dragging us into another department with a fully equipped staff, growing expenditure, and the usual complaint of India being poor and the people being ignorant and that they know not what to do for themselves. If this Committee is appointed, I would certainly suggest that they should utilise the existing machinery, the existing universities, the Commercial Department and the cotton markets. These are the remarks which I wish to offer.

The HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK (Commerce Secretary): I had not wished to intervene in this debate, but as one Honourable Member has

[Mr. D. T. Chadwick.]

spoken from his practical experience, I wish to speak from experience and say that I had been a Director of Agriculture for many years and thoroughly enjoyed the work at the time.

Objection has been taken on the ground of the machinery and to the Central Board. As Director of Agriculture we were working in Madras, my staff were working on cotton as well as on other crops and we found that one of our biggest difficulties was, when a new type or a better variety was found out, to interest the business houses in it. Improvements in agriculture have a practical and commercial end. It is not merely a question of research, and one of the best parts about this Bill, as it seems to me, is that it brings together working for the same end, all the branches interested in cotton, the agriculturist, the exporting merchant, the manufacturer and the research worker. It is not enough to let the expert go ahead to improve a commercial crop in what way may seem to him best. He must improve it in a manner that is suited to the trade that is ultimately to use it, and the trader who pays such cess should know in what direction the agricultural expert is working. To achieve a useful commercial result beneficial alike to the spinner and the farmer, the agricultural expert, the trade and the agriculturist must co-operate. To have a Board of this general nature is, I think, one of the best omens for the improvement of our cotton in this country.

The next point is that my Honourable friend Mr. Purshotamdas Thakurdas asked for information about the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation and very naturally inquired what so far it had done for India. I was a member of the Committee the recommendations of which led to the forming of that body. That body was formed largely because Lancashire and spinners in England realised that there were increasing demands made upon the cotton supplies of the world and that there was a vast room for the improvement in the qualities of cotton generally and in the supplies of cotton. The Corporation hope to get their funds partly from a grant which was really a tax originally on their industry and the rest of their funds by a cess which is to be imposed upon every bale of cotton used in England from whatever part of the world it comes. That cess has not yet received the sanction of Parliament. It is not yet through, but it has got the support of the Board of Trade. I have every reason to think that its imposition will be effected. It was only the dissolution of Parliament last year that prevented it from being brought forward then. Until it is passed the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation is not really and fully in being. It has made some grants to certain countries,—so far as I know, to Tanganyika and to Nyassaland, and it has sent out a man to inquire into conditions in Nigeria, but it has not so far made any grant to India. That was not because that it had no interest in India, but for a definite reason. The way in which it has so far made its grants to Tanganyika and to Nyassaland has been by finding funds for additional agricultural cotton experts in those countries. In fact, it has been helping the general revenues of those countries by bearing the cost of the salaries of specified officers. I do not think that it would have been advisable in any case for the Government of India to have accepted such a grant from the Lancashire fund, viz., to pay one or two men to be employed on cotton in India. If anything like that had been done, it would probably have given much strength to the suspicion to which the Honourable Revenue Member alluded. That was one reason why the Corporation did not consider that it should give at present any funds to India. The second reason

was that it knew that the Indian Cotton Committee had already reported and recommended the organization of a body very similar to itself specially for work on cotton in India and it looks forward to the day when that body is formed and when it is thoroughly established, to work in close co-operation with that body. You will see that this non-allocation of funds to India betokens no lack of interest in cotton growth nor any lack of desire to help India. It rightly in my opinion is going to wait and see whether and how the Central Cotton Board in India develops. I think those are the answers to the questions put this morning.

THE HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS (Bombay: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, a certain amount of misapprehension appears to exist in the minds of many Honourable Members as regards the work done by the Central Cotton Committee and the recommendations made by them, as is evident from the opposition of my Honourable friends Mr. Kale and Lala Sukhbir Sinha, and also from some of the questions asked by my Honourable friend Mr. Khaparde. Possibly we members of the Committee have not advertised what we have done as well as we ought to have done, for if we had done so these misapprehensions would not have existed. The question of levying a cess was thoroughly discussed at Committee meetings where we carefully considered the question of the incidence of the cess, whether it will fall on the producer or on the consumer. We also carefully considered whether in the interests of the producer such expenditure was necessary or not. My Honourable friends Mr. Kale and Lala Sukhbir Sinha agreed that research work has to be carried on. They say that the Government of India ought to find the money for it. If it has to find the funds, it can only do so by taking it from the general tax-payer. May I ask my friend Mr. Kale to tell us as Professor of Economics whether a tax on those who benefit by the research would be so unreasonable as it would be on those who would not benefit by it? This was the basic principle on which the Committee decided that the tax should fall on the cotton growers because they thought that they are going to help the growers by agricultural research. The idea of the Committee was, I may add, not to help the spinners, shippers or merchants.

My Honourable friend Mr. Khaparde asked us why the existing Agricultural Department cannot do this work. We had considered this question also at our meetings where the Directors of Agriculture from almost all the provinces were present. They said that with the funds they had at their disposal they were doing their level best, but their level best was much lower than what was required and that without further financial assistance they could do very little more. It was a question of more money and how to find it. The provincial finances, as all Honourable Members know, are not in a position to provide the money. The Government of India said that they could not find the money, and so the only course that was left open to us was to suggest a cess on cotton. In connection with the question of imposing a cess, we had several discussions as to whether it should be 2 annas per bale or 4 annas, and whether it should be on cotton exported or on cotton used by the mills. Before coming to a decision we carefully went through the estimates of expenditure and found that 8 lakhs of rupees would be needed to carry on both classes of work. I think I may take this opportunity of explaining that it is not merely the development and improvement of cotton that we have taken in hand, but we have also taken in hand the work of marketing, and we are going to take up research work regarding the manufacture of cotton in India. With your permission, Sir, I will give some details. The Bombay Millowners' representatives said they did

[Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas.]

not much care to have research work in that branch, as they did that kind of work themselves. My Honourable friend Mr. Kale asked just now why the millowners should not do such research work. The reply is that they are doing it but they don't allow the results of their experience to reach the producers, who are therefore unable to benefit thereby. We thought that if we had a small plant to find out up to what count yarn could be spun from a particular class of cotton and if experts and technologists will certify that from some particular kind of cotton one could get 20's instead of 16's or 30's instead of 20's, that knowledge will enable the producers to get better prices for their cotton. We therefore thought that a demonstration plant was absolutely necessary for the sake of the growers. The marketing work has already been taken up, and as my Honourable friend Mr. Khaparde referred to the Berar system, I may say that the Committee have unanimously decided to introduce a system similar to the Berar one which they thought was the best. It will thus be seen that the marketing work has been taken up, as also the improvement and development of cotton. As regards agricultural research what is proposed is to supplement the work that is being done at present either by provincial Agricultural Departments or at Pusa. Later on it may be found necessary to start a separate institute, but we have not yet come to any decision on the point. For all this work money has to be found, and as we found that all this work cannot be done under 8 or 10 lakhs, we recommended to the Government of India that a cotton cess of 4 annas per bale should be imposed on bales exported or used in mills. I may mention here that we have been careful enough not to touch the cotton spun by the villagers or the cultivators, i.e., the Khaddar movement will not be affected thereby. The non-co-operators, as the Honourable the Revenue Member said, will thus approve of this proposal as the Khaddar movement will not be touched by this cess, so they can carry on their movement; and so far the non-co-operators ought to be pleased with it. I think, Sir, I have satisfied the Council and especially my Honourable friends Messrs. Khaparde and Kale and also Lala Sukhbir Sinha that as money could not be found by the Government of India we had to recommend this cess.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. G. KALE: Why?

THE HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS: Because those who are likely to be benefited by the research work must pay for the same and we have decided to come to the Legislature for their approval. After all, the Legislature represents not only the manufacturers but the zemindars as well. My friend the Honourable Lala Ram Saran Das, who is a large zemindar himself, has approved of it. We want to help cotton growers to grow better cotton and to enable them to get a better price for it. With these words I support the motion.

THE HONOURABLE LIEUTENANT RAO BAHADUR CHAUDHRI LAL CHAND (Punjab: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I must confess that I did not know that the principle of the Bill would be discussed this morning. When I looked at the Supplementary List of Business on the agenda paper, I thought the motion would be of a formal nature and would be adopted, and that the principle of the Bill would be discussed later on. But now that the question has come under discussion I cannot help associating myself with the Honourable Professor Kale in congratulating the Government on taking measures for the improvement of the cotton industry, but the methods adopted by the Government are highly objectionable. It

has become quite a fashion in these days that when new taxation is required and when it cannot fall on other shoulders, it generally falls on the shoulders of the cultivator. As a representative of cotton growers, not of the big landlords, but as a representative of the ordinary peasants, I think the measure, when it becomes known to the cotton grower, will create dissatisfaction. There is a limit to all taxations. So far as the cultivators are concerned, that limit has been reached in various directions, and Government should consider twice before they undertake this measure. The admission that has been made by the Honourable Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas, who was on the Cotton Committee, that the Committee knew that it would fall on the cotton grower needs no other argument, and I think all Members who represent the landowning classes as well as the producers ought to join with Professor Kale in opposing this motion. I again repeat that the object is a laudable one and Government is certainly to be congratulated on its awaking from its lethargy at least so far as cotton is concerned, but the method is faulty. Some remarks have been made as to the comparative attention that has been paid by Government to food grains and commercial commodities. Attempts have been made to justify that Government pays equal attention to both these commodities. Here I join issue with Government. Will the Honourable Member in charge of the motion kindly point out any measures which have been taken so far as the food grains, *bajra*, *jawar*, and gram are concerned? As was pointed out yesterday, more than 20 per cent. of the area under cultivation in this country is *barani*. Most of the cultivators live upon *bajra* and *jawar*. In the light of these facts and figures it is difficult to drive famine out of the country, if *bajra* and *jawar* and gram, the chief food grains that are grown in *barani* areas, are not tackled by Government. With these few words, Sir, I oppose the motion.

The HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI (United Provinces East: Muhammadan): Sir, human memory is proverbially short-lived. But, Sir, I believe, we of this Chamber have established a record so far as shortness of memory goes, if we compare our record of yesterday with the performance of to-day. Sir, it was only yesterday that complaints were made, bitter complaints were made—and I do not repent that I joined in these complaints—that the Government of India and the provincial Governments were not paying that much attention to the development of agriculture and kindred subjects that they deserved. To-day, Sir, when the Government of India have brought forward a motion for the development of a very important branch of agriculture, equally bitter complaints are made that the Government of India are not going on the right lines. The object of the Resolution that is before the House, as will be apparent to every reader, is to improve the cultivation of cotton and to set up certain machinery with a view to encourage such cultivation. I, Sir, agree with my friend the Honourable Mr. Kale in taking the view that this cess, if levied, will ultimately fall on the grower, the producer. At the same time, I am equally convinced that, if the machinery set up by the Government of India and recommended in the Resolution, works successfully, then the greatest gainer will also be the producer and the grower. Sir, if the coffers of the Government of India and the various provincial Governments were full, it would be very legitimate to object to the imposition of this cess, but, knowing as we do the financial position of the Central, as also of the provincial Governments, I do not think any serious objection can be raised to the imposition of this tax. A tax is, no doubt, always unwelcome. I do not think, Sir, there is any

[Saiyid Raza Ali.]

country in which taxes are welcome. India is no exception to the rule, nor is my friend the Honourable Mr. Kale. But, Sir, the question is, if you want to improve your agriculture, if you want to improve the quality of your produce, if you want to extend the area under agriculture, if you want to bring prosperity to the cultivator, how are you to devise means for improvement unless you find money for that purpose? On the whole, I should say, Sir, that the imposition of four annas per bale will not be a very heavy tax. No doubt, if we could do without it, I would be the first to oppose any such imposition, but, looking to our financial position, I think, Sir, that this House should agree to this proposal.

The second point raised by the Honourable Mr. Kale was his objection to the appointment of the Joint Committee mentioned in the Resolution. That, Honourable Members will see, raises at once a very important constitutional question.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. G. KALE: I never raised any objection to the appointment of the Joint Committee.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYID RAZA ALI: I thought my friend raised an objection to the appointment of the Central Board and the Joint Committee. I will take his word, so far as the latter goes. Now, I am very glad that my Honourable friend has no objection to the appointment of the Committee. Sir, let us agree to the principle and elect the Committee. The various questions that have been raised by those who have thought fit to offer criticisms on the measure can be taken into consideration later on when this Joint Committee meets.

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA: Sir, I am very glad that the Government has had an opportunity of understanding the views of the various Honourable Members here with regard to the proposed measure. I can understand and appreciate fully the feeling that, if possible, the imposition of the cess should be avoided in order to achieve the object in view and that the Government of India should find funds for this object, if they can, out of the general revenues. Honourable Members may rest assured that it would have given me infinite pleasure and satisfaction if I could have found funds from the general revenues of the country for this object and we should certainly not have asked the Legislature to agree to this cess if that were possible. The situation before us was that the provinces had very important work with regard to cotton research pending before them. The Punjab long-staple cotton was nearly being ruined if agricultural research was not undertaken immediately. The Bombay and the Central Provinces and Central India areas had very large problems having an immediate bearing upon the welfare of the cotton grower. Madras was equally clamorous. The Central Cotton Committee Board, on which there were representatives of all the Governments, of cotton growers, representatives of agricultural interests, the agricultural experts of the Government of India and the provincial Governments, and the various bodies consulted by the Local Governments, came to the unanimous conclusion that a cess was in the circumstances the best way out of the difficulty. Therefore, the point now is, are we to stop this beneficent work or are we to proceed with it, bearing in mind that this money is going to be utilised only for the benefit of the cotton grower and it would indirectly benefit also the general consumer and the general tax-payer? Are we to stop and say "No" to the various requests that have been made to us and say that it is not our business, or are we to proceed and accede to the

wishes of 'a thoroughly representative body, as I have mentioned, and to the unanimous Resolution which they have passed and say that it is true that it is the bounden duty of the Government to come to their assistance by promoting a measure which they think is best calculated to achieve the object in view but that nothing can be done? Therefore, Sir, Honourable Members may rest assured that the agricultural interests, the interests of the producer, were not ignored at all, and with a view to strengthen that element, the Government of India have recently added certain additional members to the Board and we have also placed certain members on the Committee here to represent those interests. It is a pity that we have not been able to publish the work of the Committee or to advertise it sufficiently. The proceedings of the Committee and the various Resolutions passed by them have been placed in Honourable Members' hands, but we have not proceeded to advertise the proceedings of the Committee and the work they have been doing. If we had done so, it would have removed the misapprehensions that have naturally arisen in the minds of many persons. I have already alluded to the fact that the cess would be a very small one, and there is a justification also for asking the cotton growers to bear this cess. As has been so ably put by the Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali, it is he that would be directly and indirectly benefitted by this measure by his agreeing to the cess, assuming that its burden would fall on him. I am not quite sure whether, having regard to the partial monopoly that we have in respect of the commodity we have been exporting and the difficulty which the mill-owners would find in adjusting their machinery, the burden would fall upon the agricultural producer, and whether it would not fall really upon the mill-owner either here or abroad. I shall not drag myself into that controversy now. The matter will be discussed in more and fuller detail in the Joint Committee, and further on, if necessary, on a second reading of this Bill. Therefore I would ask Honourable Members to bear in mind that it is not a matter of certainty that this tax would really, small as it is, affect the grower. Even assuming for a moment that a fraction of it or even the whole of it would fall upon the grower, I think that it is not too large a burden which he could not bear, especially as none of the proceeds is going to be utilised for the benefit of any one other than himself.

Then, Sir, I have already explained that we have hit upon the four annas both on the ground of its not being a heavy burden as well as because, with a smaller impost, it would not be possible to carry out the programme which has the approval of the Government of India in a large measure and which the Central Cotton Committee has before it. I think the Committee would require about Rs. 17 lakhs within the next two years. The work would have to be undertaken not perfunctorily, not in a niggardly or half-hearted fashion, but thoroughly satisfactorily if any good results are to be achieved. I therefore think that the amount we have proposed is not excessive, but this again is a matter which can be further considered. Exception has been taken to the constitution of the Board as a suitable machinery for the purpose of carrying out the objects which the Government has at heart. Professor Kale would, on reflection, I think, find that the Government would only perhaps be following their ancient traditional policy if they were to concentrate all power in their own hands. But they have chosen in this measure to associate themselves with those persons who are likely to be affected by it, with those persons who are the principal parties concerned, namely, the representatives of cotton growers, the representatives of mill-owners, the

[Mr. B. N. Sarma.]

representatives of manufacturers and the representatives of the commercial public concerned in this matter. They have associated themselves with them and said that they will give a practically free hand to them subject to their general control as to how they utilise the fund. Therefore, I think the constitution of that Board should disarm all opposition that the Government would be guided by any bureaucratic methods in their dealing with the proceeds of the cess. Our Imperial officers would be at the Committee's disposal and are on it. Our Imperial research officers must be employed for the purpose of carrying out these objects. The Agricultural Adviser is the President of this Central Board. Many of the directors in the provinces are on this Board and consequently it is not that we are going to take our hand off this business. We are associating ourselves with the representatives of the parties interested, and I think on reflection Mr. Kale would see the wisdom of the course we have adopted in associating the non-official public immediately interested with the representatives of the Government in carrying out the policy which all of us approve. As regards the subsidiary matter to which the Honourable Mr. Purshotamdas has alluded, namely, whether the Empire Cotton Association proposes to lend any assistance to us in this matter or not, I should think it is a matter of very trivial moment so far as this particular subject is concerned. We should welcome any assistance which may be forthcoming from that Association which may benefit directly or indirectly from the measures which we are proposing, but I should think that India should stand upon her own resources and should work out her salvation for herself and should not be dependent upon any bounty or upon any charity which may be extended to her by the Empire Cotton Association or any other body of a similar character. If any such assistance is given we need not refuse it. But I should think that we have to chalk out our policy independent of any assistance that may be forthcoming and to my mind the assistance which may be given would only have a very very faint and remote bearing upon the issue we are considering now. I am not sure, as far as my information goes that the Empire Cotton Association would be willing to extend any very great help seeing that their resources are limited and they have to spend their money on their own objects. It may be that they may be able to see their way to help us slightly, but whether they assist us or not, let us be independent. Irrespective of whether they assist us or not, I think our way is quite clear. My Honourable friend behind me said that we were dealing very hard with the agriculturist in pressing this measure, and it is the agriculturist that is hit hard by every measure of taxation. I have every sympathy with the agriculturist and no one wishes to see further burdens imposed upon him. But I should like to ask him to reflect as to what the Punjab cultivator would really say, if he is intelligent and acute, by reason of this opposition, when the cotton grower in the Punjab is threatened with ruin, especially in the matter of long staple cotton if this measure is not proposed. A part of the help that is going to be extended is to the Punjab and Sindh and Northern India, apart from the black cotton soils that are going to be benefitted by it, and I will tell my Honourable friend that he is going to reap the benefit to a much greater extent than the portion of the taxation which he is going to pay would warrant. After all, he is going to pay a trivial sum. I will not be dragged into further controversies about *bajra*, etc. The Agricultural Department would be only too glad to do more, but funds are limited and the Agricultural Departments in the provinces are doing their level best, and *bajra* and other products are, I know, as a matter of fact, being dealt with in some

of the provinces which are chiefly interested in the growth of those crops. Pusa may not be able to undertake every branch of the research, and possibly they are not in a position to extend their activities to some of these crops, but that is by reason of the limitation of funds, by reason of the limitation of the climatic conditions and by the soil limitations. It is not that the Government are desirous of multiplying cesses. Allusion has been made to the lac cess and so on. Of course, if that is the only way in which an industry can be pushed through, it has to be adopted. I am not going to argue the principles underlying that, but I may inform the Council that the Government have every hope that they may be able to introduce a Bill to repeal the Indigo Cess Act, because they feel that the object with which that cess has been imposed does not require such assistance. I allude to this to show that it is not as if the Government are desirous of multiplying cesses or getting money out of the cultivator when the money can be found from the general revenues of the country. On the whole, I am glad that the principles and objects of the measure have been approved by all, and I am not in the least disconcerted by the criticism to which the measure has been exposed. I can understand, as I have said, the anxiety of Honourable Members to safeguard the interests of the agriculturist, but I hope that those gentlemen who have chosen to oppose it would realise that they would be helping the country if they withdrew their opposition and that this Council should unanimously adopt the Resolution, because when they once approve the object they will be, knowing full well the limited means at the disposal of the Government of India, promoting a measure which is likely to achieve in the near future, in the immediate future, the objects which they have at heart. I therefore recommend the adoption of this Resolution by the House unanimously.

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN COTTON CESS BILL—NOMINATION TO JOINT COMMITTEE.

The HONOURABLE MR. B. N. SARMA (Revenue and Agriculture Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the following Members of the Council of State be nominated to serve on the Joint Committee to consider and report on the Bill to provide for the creation of a fund for the improvement and development of the growing, marketing, and manufacture of cotton in India, namely:

'The Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy, the Honourable Mr. Purshotamdas Thakurdas, the Honourable Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas, the Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh, the Honourable Khan Bahadur Nawab Muhammad Muzammil-ullah Khan and the Mover'."

The motion was adopted.

COURSE OF BUSINESS.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I think that this is an opportune moment to interrupt our deliberations. There are two other Resolutions on the paper and I have received intimation that an Honourable Member desires to move certain amendments. The Government have given short notice of the Resolutions and the Honourable Member has also given very short notice of his amendments. If I adjourn the Council now, as I intend to do, till 2-30 P.M., the Honourable Mr. Chadwick who is in charge of the motions will have an opportunity of considering the question whether he should

[The President.]

object to the amendments on a point of order or what line he should adopt in regard to them.

The Council then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Council re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock. The Honourable the President was in the Chair.

RESOLUTION RE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION AND SOCIAL INSURANCE IN AGRICULTURE.

The HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK (Commerce Secretary): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:

"That this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that no action be taken on the Draft Convention relating to workmen's compensation in agriculture and the Recommendation concerning social insurance in agriculture adopted by the Third Session of the International Labour Conference at Geneva in 1921."

Sir, only very few words are required to explain why this Resolution is placed before this Council. As this House is aware, India is a signatory to the Treaty of Versailles, and therefore an original member of the International Labour Organization. This organization meets at different times and embodies its opinions in Draft Conventions and Draft Recommendations. These Draft Conventions and Recommendations have then to be put before the competent authority in each country. Whenever they involve legislation, that means that they will have to be placed before the Legislature; and hence this Draft Convention and this Draft Recommendation are now being placed before this House to-day. The House, and each country, has absolute freedom to come to whatever decision it thinks fit on a Draft Convention or a Draft Recommendation, considering solely how far it is applicable or not to its own conditions. If it ratifies a Convention, rather if any country ratifies a Convention, that country is bound by it; if it accepts a Recommendation, then it is equally bound to bring its laws and regulations into conformity with that Recommendation. India has a very good reputation with the International Labour Organization, because she has always taken a careful note and paid close attention to any Conventions or Recommendations that have come to her. It would probably please and satisfy this House to know that two of the Draft Conventions which they recommended for ratification at the September meeting have already been ratified. I have put the Draft Convention and Draft Recommendation together in one Resolution because the principle which should, I think, guide this House in coming to a decision on them is exactly the same in both cases. With your permission, I would now read the Draft Convention. The operative portion of the Convention is this:

"Each Member of the International Labour Organization which ratifies this Convention undertakes to extend to all agricultural wage earners its laws and regulations which provide for compensation of workers for personal injury by accident arising out of or in the course of their employment."

It is not open to the Government of India or to any Member of the International Labour Conference to modify the terms of any of these Draft Conventions or Recommendations. They have been agreed upon at the International Conference, and it is only open to the Governments and their Legislatures either to accept or to ratify them or to say that they are not

prepared to do so. Therefore this Convention on workmen's compensation would, if ratified, compel us to extend to all agricultural wage-earners in India any laws and regulations which provide for the compensation of workers for personal injury. For the moment, there are no laws or regulations in this country which provide for the compensation of workers in industrial and commercial undertakings. We have, as this House is aware, a Bill which will be coming before this House later in this Session to provide for such compensation in certain industries, and if we ratify this Convention we shall be compelled to hold up that Bill and not proceed with it until we are satisfied that we can reasonably extend the scheme to all agricultural workers. I do not think I need elaborate that any further. It is perfectly obvious to every Member of this House that it is impossible to evolve a scheme for workmen's compensation for every villager, for every small boy who tends the cattle or goats. In these circumstances, Sir, I would ask this House to advise the Governor General in Council that it will not be desirable to ratify this Convention.

I turn now to the Draft Recommendation which is somewhat similar. The operative part of this Draft Recommendation reads that:

"Every Member of the International Labour Organization will extend its laws and regulations establishing systems of insurance against sickness, invalidity, old age and for similar social risks to agricultural wage-earners on conditions equivalent to those prevailing in the case of workers in industrial and commercial undertakings and occupations."

Sir, in this country we have as yet no old age pensions for wage-earners. We have no joint schemes of insurance to provide against sickness, to which both employers and work people can contribute. We have not even the insurance data and tables of mortality on which to calculate what those contributions should be. It was not many years ago that this idea of insurance for old age and sickness was introduced even in England with the cry of 9d. for 4d. and there, I believe, their calculations as to what those subscriptions should be have not proved correct. It is going to be a perfectly impossible position for India to attempt it, and there is no need to undertake this most important legislation for insurance for sickness. If we cannot introduce it for those who are engaged in the big textile industries in Bombay, how can we do it for villages which are scattered about up and down the country? At the International Conference all countries were represented, or most of them were, but the conditions of the countries are very very dissimilar, and this Draft Convention and Recommendation now before you, I submit, refer to conditions in agriculture entirely foreign to those obtaining in this country. Therefore, Sir, I would ask this House to advise the Governor General in Council that this Draft Convention and Draft Recommendation cannot be accepted.

The HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA (United Provinces Northern: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to give my full support to this Resolution that the Governor General in Council be recommended not to take any action on the Draft Convention relating to workmen's compensation in agriculture and Recommendation concerning their social insurance. At present labour in agriculture is scarce, and if any such action is taken labour will be more scarce. I think this House should recommend the Governor General in Council not to take any action in this matter.

The HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I also rise to support this Resolution. In agriculture we have no hazards to confront us and there is no frequency of accidents.

[Bai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das.]

In mills, workshops and manufacturing concerns there is a possibility of accidents due either to the negligence of the labourer, or to that of the employer, but in agriculture, I think, accidents are very rare. In western countries where agricultural machinery is used or where up to date mechanical methods are employed, risk of accidents is common, and for that purpose probably the International Conference has adopted the Resolution which we do not want to extend to this country.

The RIGHT HONOURABLE V. S. SRINIVASA SASTRI (Madras: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to ask your leave and the leave of the Council to move an amendment if you will be good enough to overlook the lack of notice.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Does the Honourable Member desire to say anything on this?

The HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK (Commerce Secretary): I am quite prepared to overlook the lack of notice.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Then the Honourable Member may move his amendment.

The RIGHT HONOURABLE V. S. SRINIVASA SASTRI: Let me acknowledge, Sir, the courtesy of the Honourable Member in charge of the Resolution, in that he has overlooked the notice to which he is entitled, for the amendment that I propose is of some importance, and he would have been justified if he had chosen in asking that some more time should have been given. The amendment runs as follows:

"At the same time this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that an inquiry be made as to what action in regard to these matters is practicable and necessary in the case of organized plantations like those of tea, rubber and sugar and that the results of the inquiry be reported to this Council."

It will be noticed that I make this a separate and separable part of the Resolution. It would not be incumbent, unless the Government of India thought otherwise, on them to communicate this part of the Resolution to the League of Nations or to the International Labour Organization. That is a domestic matter entirely, and my object in bringing it forward is to act in conformity with the spirit which has been so admirably delineated by the Mover of the Resolution. I consider, Sir, that the labour part of the League of Nations is a most humanitarian movement, and it is entitled to the most loyal and whole-hearted support of all the Members belonging to the League of Nations and of other Members that may come into the organization later on. That India has faithfully carried out the Recommendations, ratified the Draft Conventions and taken action upon them, in so far as that was possible, is a fact upon which India may well congratulate itself. When I attended the League of Nations in 1921 I stressed the fact that, while other countries of the world, being members of the League, were slow to ratify the Draft Conventions and had not taken the necessary action in regard to the Recommendations, India had shown an admirable spirit of loyalty in that she had promptly ratified the Conventions and even taken legislative action thereupon. I urged this in order to support a claim that we of the Indian Delegation made that India should be admitted to the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation as one of the 8 countries of the world of chief industrial importance. Our claim had been resisted for some reason or other

and it fell to me to mention this fact that we had loyally adhered to the spirit and to the recommendations of the International Labour Organisation. I had to stress that fact in order to enforce our claim to entry on the Governing Body. And my amendment now is merely another indication of the way in which we try to meet the wishes of the International Labour Organisation. I am quite aware that the extension of the guarantees that are possible in the case of industrial organisations to agriculture is an enterprise of exceeding complexity. In fact, so much is that the case that I perfectly agree with the Honourable Member that it is beyond practical politics to try to extend every one of those things to agriculture. To the Resolution, therefore, I give general adherence heartily but my amendment asks the Government of India to examine whether the ameliorations suggested in the Draft Convention and the Recommendations are impossible really in the case of that part of our agricultural activity which may be described as the organised plantations of tea, sugar and rubber. There these conditions do not exist which make the application of the ameliorative remedies impossible. Now, my Honourable colleagues who supported the Resolution in short speeches before me mentioned, for example, the circumstance that the Draft Convention would be inapplicable to agriculture in India for the reason that there are no special diseases, risks or dangers to which agricultural workers are liable. That is an indisputable fact. But, in the case of plantations it is somewhat different. I have been told, and I recently read a report of the Assam Tea Plantations in which it is suggested, although not yet scientifically established, that Kala Azar may probably be a disease incidental to these plantations and that remedies against that disease might probably come—I am not sure, I do not dogmatise, Sir—might probably come within the scope of the Draft Convention, that for attacks from that disease and for the debilitating consequence of it a workman may reasonably consider himself entitled to compensation at the hands of his employer. But that is not by any means the strongest reason for urging this. When we take the case of these big plantations, we find that the workmen are brought together from different parts of the country. The labourers do not always belong to the areas where the plantations are situated and then, if accidents happen to them, if old age or invalidity overtakes them, it is not possible for them in such areas to find other and easier occupations. For in the areas where these plantations are situated, more or less it is the case that that is the only possible industry open to them. There is no variety of occupation to which it is possible for us to divert these people. It might be necessary, therefore, to rest on the plantations the duty of looking after the labour forces that they employ in respect of the Recommendation regarding what is called social insurance. My friend was good enough to read the Recommendation but I will just refer to the words again which indicate what is embraced within the phrase "social insurance". What is meant is "sickness, invalidity, old age and other similar risks." Of course, it may be said that, if we start an inquiry into this matter, it might lead to some risk of its being extended to other forms of agriculture. That evil is an imaginary affair. If we do a thing with regard to certain parts of agricultural operations, it does not mean that we are necessarily bound to extend these operations into other spheres. It will be time enough when somebody stands up and says that even as regards the cultivation of rice, with regard to the cultivation of cotton, it is possible to employ these remedies and it is obligatory on landlords and zamindars to adopt the remedies which are herein described. That, it seems to me, is a purely imaginary affair and

[The Right Honourable V. S. Srinivasa Sastri.]

may be dismissed at once. Nor am I here laying down propositions which are definite or binding in their character. I am not aware—I do not know nor do I rely on any published reports—but it appears to me it is perfectly possible on the face of things to apply the Draft Convention and the Recommendation and the remedial activities mentioned therein to the case of labourers employed on plantations which are organised, where they dwell more or less together in localities assigned for them and habitations made for them, and where remedies of a common character are easily applicable. The case of plantations is on a very different footing from the case of scattered agriculture. To dismiss both alike is, it seems to me, to overlook a distinction which is there and must be recognised. I only say that it be a recommendation to the Governor General in Council to make an inquiry into this matter. I do not say that the inquiry should be of one character or another. Nor do I employ the very common formula—a committee consisting of officials and non-officials. I leave the Governor General in Council to conduct this inquiry in the way that he pleases and by the machinery which he may choose. But it does seem to me that, out of loyalty to the International Labour Organisation, we are bound to pay respect to these Recommendations and Draft Conventions in so far as the matters therein are susceptible of extension in this country. And, as I consider that the industries that I have named form a group within themselves under the large head of Agriculture to which these remedies are applicable, I venture to make this suggestion to the Governor General in Council that he should conduct an inquiry and report thereon to this Council. If it be so considered that the Governor General in Council is not under an obligation to report this matter to the League of Nations and raise expectations in countries outside India, let it be a purely domestic matter, but it does seem to me that workmen employed on these plantations are entitled to the benefits which workmen in industrial organisations all over the world are now receiving and which even in India workmen employed in the ordinary industries are receiving under the humane laws that we have ourselves enacted within the last few years. I therefore move the amendment.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: To the Resolution under discussion, amendment moved:

“That at the end of the Resolution the following be added:

‘At the same time this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that an inquiry be made as to what action in regard to these matters is practicable and necessary in the case of organised plantations like those of tea, rubber and sugar, and that the results of the inquiry be reported to this Council.’”

That amendment and the main question are susceptible of being discussed at the same time and therefore both of them are open to debate.

The HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR FROMM (Bombay Chamber of Commerce): Sir, the Honourable Members of this Council have had before them the report of the Joint Committee which recently sat on the Workmen's Compensation Bill, and when turning over in their minds the amendment which has been proposed by my Right Honourable friend I ask Members of this Council to keep clearly before them that report and the Bill as amended by the Committee. The Committee gave a good deal of their time and energy in going through the Bill and what they kept before them chiefly

was that this new legislation should only be brought to give benefit to workmen and labourers in this country who are employed in hazardous tasks. It was felt generally by the Committee that the Workmen's Compensation Bill was an advanced step in this country and that it would be better to go slowly with it at first, and that, when the Bill is passed and becomes an Act, as no doubt it will be passed and become an Act, and when we have had experience of it for some years, it would be open to any Member of the Legislature to introduce another Bill further to amend the Act. Bearing in mind this Bill which I have no doubt all the Honourable Members of this Council have studied very closely, I should like to refer to a point which of course my Right Honourable friend on my right clearly understands, but of which I don't know whether all the Members of this Council are equally aware that in plantations like those of tea, rubber and sugar, the common term "plantation" also includes a factory. Now those men employed on sugar plantations, tea plantations and rubber plantations, who are working in the factory will come under the Factories Act, and if they suffer any disability from their work in the factory or if there is an accident in the factory of a tea plantation, a sugar plantation or a rubber plantation, they will come under the Workmen's Compensation Bill when it becomes law and will benefit by it. But it was not the intention of the Committee to extend the benefits of this new legislation to men working in the fields. We considered it would be opening too large a field to be explored at the present time. As I have said in my opening remarks, it will be open to any Member of the Legislature to introduce an amending Bill after we have had experience of this new and great piece of legislation—the Workmen's Compensation Act. I cannot quite follow my Right Honourable friend in this amendment in asking Government to make now a further inquiry, which he himself admits would be a task of exceeding perplexity. I think Government in the next few years will be very busy handling this Workmen's Compensation Bill, or Act as it will be, without having to prosecute a further inquiry to extend the scope of the Act. The Members of the Conference at Geneva were fully aware, when passing their Recommendations and their Conventions, that it could not be expected that conditions in all countries would be alike and what might be a very suitable Convention for one country did not necessarily apply to the needs of another one. By accepting the Resolution put forward by the Honourable Mr. Chadwick and desisting from workmen's compensation in agriculture I do not think India can be accused in any way of not being faithful to the Geneva Conference. I sincerely recommend to the Honourable Members of this Council that they should go slowly in this matter. The Workmen's Compensation Bill is a very advanced form of legislation for this country. We want to see how it is going to work, and when it has been in working order for a number of years, we can look further afield and if it is thought that labour in this country wants further protection, I for one would in no way be against it. My strong advice to this Council is *festina lente* which I think nearly all of you know well to be an Italian proverb meaning "make haste slowly." Sir, I cannot support the amendment.

The HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE (Berar: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I am in entire sympathy with the Resolution that has been moved by the Honourable Mr. Chadwick. I agree with him and I would support the Resolution all through. As to the amendment that has been moved, I do not know if I am right in proposing a further amendment by the omission of the words "organised plantations like those of" and the

[Mr. G. S. Khaparde.]

word "sugar" at the end. The amendment would then run "in the case of tea and rubber." It comes to this:

"Omit the word 'organised' leaving the words 'plantations like those of tea and rubber' and omit the words 'and sugar'."

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Will the Honourable Member adduce arguments in support of the amendment?

The HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE: My object in moving this amendment is this. I omit the word "organized." It is usual now to say organized labour, but what is organized labour I have never been able to ascertain. There are a number of labourers working in one place. Do you call that organized labour, or disorganized labour? Whatever that is, I do not understand. Similarly a plantation is a plantation. What is an organized plantation as distinguished from an ordinary plantation? It is difficult to say. Therefore, not understanding the word "organized" I have proposed to omit it. I omit sugar because it is an industry which has suffered a great deal in India. Everybody remembers that at one time we were exposed to the competition from what was called—what was it called? Government entered themselves into competition with us and helped their own people with large donations in the case of Mauritius and in the case of other people. They used to have a word for it. (*An Honourable Member*: "Bounty-fed.") Yes, it was bounty-fed competition we had to deal with. So sugar has suffered a great deal, and the sugar industry is just rising. I do not say it has risen yet, but it is only attempting to rise, and if we try to apply all these regulations to an incipient industry which is just rising it would be ruinous to it and therefore I take out sugar. As to the tea plantations, they have been established for some time, they have stood competition successfully, and they are prosperous and are very good so far as they go. Same is the case with rubber. Even in the case of rubber and tea I would not apply them at once, but I consent to have an inquiry being made, and after that inquiry is reported to us and if this House thinks that they should be applied or should be considered, the matter should be separately taken up. I take this amendment to be a thing which we owe to ourselves not because of the recommendations of the International Labour Conference, but as an inquiry that is necessary independently of it and because of our desire to try and approximate to the standard they are laying down there. Not that we can take them up or are able to take them up at present. We have no information. Our information is that tea plantations are doing very well, and rubber plantations are doing very well. This inquiry does not deal with the zemindar, inamdar, landholder or the petty proprietor, this does not apply to them at all. They cannot possibly be affected in India at any time, not only now but I think never. With these few words I move my amendment.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: To the amendment under consideration amendment moved:

"The word 'organised' be omitted, the words 'and sugar' be omitted, and the word 'and' be inserted between the words 'tea' and 'rubber'."

It would then read as follows:

"and necessary in the case of plantations like those of tea and rubber."

These are the two competing amendments and the present debate will be entirely confined to the question of this amendment, and when this is disposed of we can go back to the main question.

The HONOURABLE MAJOR NAWAB MOHAMED AKBAR KHAN (North-West Frontier Province: Nominated Non-Official): May I speak?

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Does the Honourable Member wish to speak to the amendment? At present the question before the House, as I have already endeavoured to show, is an amendment to the amendment. When that has been disposed of, the Council will be back on the main question. I do not think the Honourable Member wishes to speak on this amendment.

The HONOURABLE MAJOR NAWAB MOHAMED AKBAR KHAN: No, Sir. I will speak on the Resolution and will confine myself to it in general.

The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS (Bombay: Non-Muhammadan): I am thankful to my Honourable friend Mr. Khaparde for suggesting that the word "sugar" should be dropped. I am not very particular about the word "organised", but the word "sugar" ought to be removed. We have not got many sugar plantations in this country on a large scale. In the Bombay Presidency, the Government of Bombay has been good enough to acquire about 600 acres of land and lease it to a company for a sugar plantation. The company has begun work and if all these Conventions were to be applied to labour in sugar plantations, the sugar company will not be able to work at a profit. The chief argument of my Right Honourable friend Mr. Srinivasa Sastri used in reference to plantations was that in the case of organised plantations the labour comes from outside and in case of sickness, or invalidity or unemployment they cannot find any employment there or cannot find light work. In the case of sugar plantations—I am referring here to one company in which I am interested—that difficulty does not arise. The labour employed there belongs to the villages round about the plantation. They live in the near villages and merely come out to do the work of the company, that is, sowing, reaping and planting. Therefore, in the case of sugar there is no necessity for any inquiry and I hope my Honourable Friend Mr. Khaparde's amendment will be accepted.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The question is:

"That to the amendment proposed the following amendment be made:

'Omit the word 'organised' and the words 'and sugar' and insert the word 'and' between the words 'tea' and 'rubber'."

The motion was adopted.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The amendment to the Resolution therefore reads as follows:

"in the case of plantations like those of tea and rubber."

There is no competing amendment. The main question and the amendment are now open to debate.

The HONOURABLE MAJOR NAWAB MOHAMED AKBAR KHAN: Sir, India has no doubt improved its industries along with the rest of the world: though it may not be so well advanced as some of the European countries but still some progress has been made. The modernisation in India is confined to the field of industries only and has not affected agriculture to any appreciable extent. The old conservative peasantry of India still adhere to the time-worn methods of productions and are not willing to discard the rude inefficient implements that they have inherited from their forefathers. In the absence of any organisation and the economic inability of the average peasants to purchase improved implements of cultivation, it is evident that

[Major Nawab Mohamed Akbar Khap.]

the adoption of the Draft Convention in question can bring no material benefit to India.

Again the bulk of the agriculturists, whether tenants or peasant proprietors, work on very small holdings and in addition to the occasional assistance of their own families, they do not require the employment of hired labour. In this case, therefore, the necessity of workers' compensations or social insurance for them is altogether out of the question. Moreover whatever little demand of labour there is in agriculture, it is periodical and short-lived; from this point of view as well, there appears no necessity for any such legislative measure. Again agriculture, by its very nature, is an industry that does not involve any great personal risk to the worker to justify any legislative enactment for the grant of compulsory compensation as contemplated by the Draft Convention under consideration.

Under these circumstances it is absolutely clear that the Draft Convention relating to the workers' compensation and social insurance in agriculture is premature for India. Its ratification therefore should be deferred to a future time when the increased use of machinery and consequent employment of hired labour in agriculture may necessitate such protection of the labourers. The introduction of such an enactment in the Indian legislature at the present moment means an unnecessary encumbrance and will remain a dead letter for a long time to come. On these grounds I strongly support the Resolution.

The HONOURABLE MR. V. G. KALE (Bombay: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I support the Resolution as well as the amendment. I do not see any reason why we should be frightened by the proposed inquiry into organized industries like tea plantations. The words 'organized' and 'sugar' both go out of the amendment. Sugar has been taken out of tea, as my Honourable friend Mr. Khaparde prefers to have tea without sugar. However, as these industries are conducted on a large scale and as it is possible that there are certain disabilities from which workmen suffer in these industries, and further, as it is possible to remedy those disabilities in the industries, I think there will be no harm in making the inquiry, even though that inquiry may be looked upon to-day as premature. We are not asking Government to make any recommendation to the International Labour Conference in connection with that inquiry. It is solely for our own benefit. As my Honourable friend in front of me pointed out, in the case of the Workmen's Compensation Bill which will come up very soon before this House, we have taken into account only the industries involving hazardous kinds of work. I agree with him entirely there. I also agree with him in thinking that the time has not yet come to extend the scope of the Workmen's Compensation legislation to all manner of industries. But what we are asking for, by means of this amendment, is to consider whether it is desirable—as it may be, in the near future, desirable—to introduce certain kinds of safeguards for workmen employed in large plantations. What cannot be true of sugar plantations may be true of tea and other plantations. Labour in tea plantations is, as everyone knows, imported from distant provinces. If on account of any cause there is a depression in those industries, or there is any other trouble in them then it is just likely that workmen engaged in the plantations will be placed in a very difficult position. They are likely

to be stranded and are likely to be offered very low wages, and therefore there are many points in connection with these large plantations where some sort of ameliorative action may be necessary. In order, therefore, to know what the position in these large plantations is, whether it may be desirable in the near future to introduce some sort of safeguards by way of compensation or otherwise, I think it will be but right for the Government of India to make an inquiry on their own initiative, on their own account. There is no compulsion from anybody outside; it will be for our own benefit, for our own information, and therefore I strongly support the amendment.

The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS: Sir, I rise to support the Resolution as it stands and oppose the amendment: and my reasons are these. In the first place, I think that this amendment ought not to have been tacked on to this Resolution. My friend, the Honourable Member in charge was good enough, courteous enough to overlook the short notice, but other Members will have a grievance that they did not expect any debate of this kind,—big Zamindars or others, and that this has been sprung suddenly

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member is expected to be present at every meeting.

The HONOURABLE MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS: There is another difficulty also. My Right Honourable friend Mr. Srinivasa Sastri made it quite clear that he did not want this inquiry to be made in connection with the International Labour Conference's Conventions; if I understood him aright, he made that quite clear. If that was so, where was the objection to passing the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Chadwick, and then of bringing in this matter in a separate Resolution at a later date, so that by not being tacked on to this Resolution the difficulty that it may have to go to the International Labour Conference would have disappeared. But leaving aside the technical difficulty, my chief difficulty is this, Sir. The Convention is quite clear; it lays down that each member of the International Labour Organization which ratifies this Convention shall extend it to all agricultural wage-earners and they do not refer only to plantations like tea or rubber. If any provision of the nature laid down in the Draft Convention has to be made we will I fear be obliged to apply to all agricultural wage-earners the regulation which provides for the compensation of workers. The amendment as it stands, Sir, says that an inquiry will be made as to whether action in regard to these matters is practicable. I take it, Sir, that this refers to what the Convention has laid down on page 22 of the Draft of the Third International Labour Conference. If that is so, it is impossible for us to apply all those advantages to all agricultural labourers. I daresay my Honourable friend does not want it. But would it not have been better, instead of asking that the inquiry be made about the necessity or practicability of introducing such measures to say definitely what sort of inquiry was really wanted. If the Council will please refer to the recommendations on page 37, they will find that they include insurance against sickness, invalidity, old age and other similar social risks. Sir, through some mistakes possibly the Right Honourable Mr. Sastri did not read the words 'social risks'. We do not know what 'social risks' mean, for so far as I know we in this country have no social risks against which provision has to be made by way of insurance. Looking to all these difficulties, I would beseech my

[Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas.]

Right Honourable friend to withdraw this amendment and to bring forward his recommendation in the form of a separate Resolution.

(The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das rose to speak.)

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I think the Honourable Member has spoken already.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: I want to speak on the amendment.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member may speak on the amendment.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Sir, I rise to oppose the amendment so ably moved by my Right Honourable friend. In the Punjab there was a time when the tea and sugar industry were flourishing, and now we are passing through a time quite different from what it used to be.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: 'Sugar' has been omitted from the amendment.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: But the tea industry in the Punjab where only local labour is employed is in a very bad way. So far as the industrial factories are concerned, they will all be covered by the Factories Act and by the Workmen's Compensation Bill which will, I presume, soon be enacted; so I consider that this inquiry will lead to no practical results. We all know that there are very rare accidents in agricultural occupations, and so there are no risks involved.

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: Sir, the amendment has been moved by my Right Honourable friend with his usual command of language and persuasiveness, but in spite of that, I must ask the House to reject it. In the present form of the amendment, he invites us to enter on an inquiry in regard to these matters in the case of tea and rubber. The whole idea of workmen's compensation and of social insurance, I am certain he will agree with me, is for the good of the worker. It is based on the idea that the workman and the labourer need that class of protection. Whether a particular employer is making profits or not is not germane to the inquiry. In the first place, while it is not necessarily needed for agricultural labourers, I do not know why the Honourable Member wants it for labourers on tea and rubber estates. I can see no reason why tea and rubber should be differentiated in any way from other agricultural occupations. The occupations themselves are extremely similar. It looks as if the request were founded on the idea that the owners of tea and rubber plantations were supposed to be making good profits and therefore their employees must be protected against accidents and sickness. Now we have been told that sugar and rubber have been in a bad way, but I think the Honourable Member will agree with me that the basis and the idea of this social insurance of workmen is not to consider whether a particular industry can or cannot pay, but whether the occupation upon which that labour is engaged is of such a nature that in order to protect them some such regulation must be enforced. So to begin with, I should say the Honourable Member places his amendment on an entirely wrong basis.

In the second place I would turn more especially to workmen's compensation. For the moment there is no Workmen's Compensation Act. This Workmen's Compensation Bill, which is going to come up, has been definitely restricted to hazardous occupations. There are very many contentious points in it. There are questions which will arise, and which have arisen in every case where such an Act is in force, as to where and when an accident has taken place, whether in the course of the man's occupation or not, and above all things, it is essential that we should get some experience of the working of that Act in organized industries before we can extend it rationally or rapidly to others. The Honourable Member has advanced, as far as I am aware, no reason whatever to show why we should undertake this inquiry, and if we went on with his inquiry now, it would probably have the effect of postponing the Workmen's Compensation Bill. That Bill was circulated to all Local Governments and to all Chambers; it was widely published throughout the country for over 2½ years, and it has been examined very carefully by a Joint Committee, and not one of them recommended that the scope of that Bill should be extended in any form to agriculture. It will be a very regrettable step, just on the eve of passing that Bill into an Act, to endeavour to enlarge its scope in this way. I am also not aware of any case in which he has shown that tea and rubber cultivation—I do not speak of the factory—but of the cultivation of tea and rubber—is in any way hazardous. The claim for an inquiry to consider the introduction of social insurance into tea and rubber plantations is based on equally inadequate grounds. He has tried to raise our feelings by saying that in many of the tea plantations the labour is imported. So, Sir, it is at Jamshedpur. I believe much of the labour at Jamshedpur is imported. There is no such suggestion, I have not heard of any, that solely because labour is imported, and iron and steel will go through periods of depression just as tea or any other industry, it is necessary to start old age pensions and insurance schemes to which both the employers and the employed should subscribe for sickness or for various other social risks. I see no reason why out of all industries of this country we should make a specific inquiry as to what action is practicable or necessary in the case of those engaged in the rubber, why the agricultural labourers on tea gardens or rubber plantations should require old age pensions and social insurance. We do not suggest it for an employee in Bombay mill, we do not suggest it for an employee in a jute mill, and why a man on agricultural labour on a rubber plantation needs such pensions I cannot understand. I understand in fact that many of these labourers have settled down and cultivate their own lands. I would for this reason, also because it will prejudice and hamper us with our Workmen's Compensation Act, ask this House not to accept this amendment. I can assure the Right Honourable Member that to do so will in no way detract from our reputation with the International Organization. To him personally we are under an enormous obligation for his aid in getting India a place on the Governing Body of that Organization which is largely due to the great ability with which he advocated our cause. But the International Labour Organisation do not want us to put riders when reporting whether we accept their recommendations or not. We did it once before, and they were sent back. They do not want us to put any sort of riders whether we accept their recommendations or not. Further, the other countries of the world well know the position of India in regard to this social legislation. At the Washington Conference when the very cognate questions arose in regard to industry, they specifically said that the Convention need not be sent to India because they knew the social conditions of our labour, and that

[Mr. D. T. Chadwick.]

it was not really applicable to the state of affairs in India. I would ask the House, therefore, to reject this amendment.

The amendment was negatived.

The Resolution was then put and adopted.

RESOLUTION RE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN AGRICULTURE—RECOMMENDATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

The HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK (Commerce Secretary): Sir, with your permission and that of the House, I will slightly alter the wording of the next Resolution that stands in my name. That is to say, in place of the words "is of opinion", I would like to substitute "recommends to the Governor General in Council". I believe that is more in consonance with the form adopted by the House, and I apologise for not having worded the Resolution in that form.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member has permission.

The HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: Then, Sir, the Resolution will read:

"That this Council having considered the Recommendations concerning the protection before and after child-birth of women wage-earners in agriculture, the night work of women, children and young persons employed in agriculture and the living-in conditions of agricultural workers adopted by the Third Session of the International Labour Conference at Geneva in 1921, recommends to the Governor General in Council that legislation to secure their enforcement should not be introduced at the present time."

I need not detain you, Sir, and the House very long over this. The reasons for moving this are exactly the same as those stated in moving the former Resolution. These Draft Recommendations, as the House will readily realise when I read them through, are applicable to countries whose agriculture is organised in a very different manner from that of India. There are four of them. The first one says—I would only remind the House once more that if we accept these Recommendations we have got to make our Legislation conform to them—the first one is:

"That each Member of the International Labour Organisation take measures to ensure to women wage-earners employed in agricultural undertakings protection before and after child-birth similar to that provided by the Draft Convention adopted by the International Labour Conference at Washington for women employed in industry and commerce, and that such measures should include the right to a period of absence from work before and after child-birth and to a grant of benefit during the said period, provided either out of public funds or by means of a system of insurance."

That one, Sir, I need not delay over. The idea of that is that countries which have legislation granting maternity benefits to women workers in industry and commerce should apply them also to agriculture. When the question in regard to women in industry and commerce arose at Washington, the International Labour Conference itself agreed that that Convention could not be applied to women workers in India, owing to the conditions of industry in India. As we have nothing like it in industry in India there is no point in making it applicable to agriculture.

The second one is:

"That each Member of the International Labour Organisation take steps to regulate the employment of young persons between the ages of 14 and 18 years in agricultural undertakings during the night, in such a way as to ensure to them a period of rest compatible with their physical necessities and consisting of not less than 9 hours which shall be consecutive."

Sir, we cannot be expected to send officials round the villages to see if our young men get 9 hours' sleep each night.

The other one is:

"That each Member of the International Labour Organisation take steps to regulate the employment of women wage-earners in agricultural undertakings during the night in such a way as to ensure to them a period of rest compatible with their physical necessities, and consisting of not less than 9 hours, which shall, when possible, be consecutive."

It would give almost more trouble to try and find out whether they have had their rest than in the case of the young men.

The last one is:

"That each Member of the International Labour Organisation, which has not already done so, take statutory or other measures to regulate the living-in conditions of agricultural workers with due regard to the special climatic or other conditions affecting agricultural work in its country, and after consultation with the employers' and workers' organisations concerned, if such organisations exist."

That such measures shall apply to all accommodation provided by employers for housing their workers either individually or in groups, or with their families, whether the accommodation is provided in the houses of such employers or in buildings placed by them at the workers' disposal.

That such measures shall contain the following provisions:

(a) Unless climatic conditions render heating superfluous, the accommodation intended for workers' families, groups of workers or individual workers, should contain rooms which can be heated.

(b) Accommodation intended for groups of workers shall provide a separate bed for each worker, shall afford facilities for ensuring personal cleanliness; and shall provide for the separation of the sexes. In the case of families, adequate provision shall be made for the children.

(c) Stables, cowhouses and open sheds should not be used for sleeping quarters."

Well, Sir, if we accept these recommendations, we must introduce legislation to that effect and if we introduce legislation, we shall have to endeavour to carry it out. I think the House will agree that our proper course is to recommend to the Governor General in Council that legislation to secure their enforcement should not be introduced at the present time.

The RIGHT HONOURABLE V. S. SRINIVASA SASTRI (Madras: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to move an amendment to this Resolution in exactly the same terms* as I employed with reference to the last motion. I will not, therefore, bore the House by reading the actual terms, which may be taken as read. I do not wish to make a long speech, Sir, but I will just say a word or two. In the first place, let me clear the ground by saying that I have no manner of intention, if both my amendments be negatived, to oppose the Resolution. The Resolution has my entire and whole-hearted support. I say that particularly because the Honourable the Mover used certain expressions which made me think that perhaps he thought I was going to oppose the Resolution if my amendment was negatived.

* "At the end of the Resolution the following be added:

'At the same time this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that an inquiry be made as to what action in regard to these matters is practicable and necessary in the case of plantations like those of tea and rubber and that the results of the inquiry be reported to this Council.'

[Right Honourable V. S. Srinivasa Sastri.]

In the next place, there is one remark that I must make. The Honourable Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas asked: why not let this Resolution go through and bring in these amendments in the shape of separate Resolutions at a later date? I should have been very pleased to do so because it would have given me an opportunity of collecting more facts and probably trying to bring other arguments to convince the House, but I thought it better to raise it on this occasion because the terms of the Resolutions are so framed that, if I had silently accepted the Resolutions now, I should have been precluded from raising the issue, which could well be construed to have been decided by the term "Agriculture" unqualifiedly used.

This second Resolution obviously is conceived in a somewhat more tentative and diffident spirit than the Resolution which we have just passed. For instance, let me draw the attention of the House to the words "at the present time" which come at the end of the Resolution. There is no such thing in the preceding Resolution. Apparently, the Honourable the Mover who framed the Resolution thinks that, while it would be premature now, conditions in India might change so far that sooner or later we might face the problem of adopting these recommendations and acting upon them. I do not know whether it would be possible in the case of agriculture in general but I do think that conditions will improve so that in the case of the occupations that I have mentioned, work in tea and rubber gardens, it might be possible to introduce most of these improvements. As a matter of fact, I was studying the Assam Labour Commission's Report of the most recent date, and while it was a very depressing document upon the whole, I found there a large number of references to provisions of the character mentioned here which were already taken by the more humane and up-to-date conductors of these plantations. It is not a thing, therefore, utterly impracticable: it has been practised. It is not a thing not required: its necessity has been established by its fulfilment in many places. There are a great many things which are done by the more humane planter to-day which, if they were universalised, would greatly improve the conditions of the labourer. It may not be possible in every case included in these recommendations, but there are a great many instances where it is perfectly possible, it seems to me, even to-day, to adopt the recommendations of the International Labour Organization.

I do not wish, Sir, to say anything more except that my object in bringing forward these things is not to exempt the conductors of the steel industry or any other industry from the necessity of fulfilling these requirements of modern labour conditions. I should have been very pleased to introduce the iron industry into the Resolution if I had thought of it. I am very sorry I forgot that, otherwise I could have given proof that I exempt nobody and no class of industry from the operations of the humane conditions which it is the object of the International Labour Organization to introduce, where so many millions of humanity are employed day and night in adding to the efficiency and welfare of the world.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I do not know whether the Right Honourable gentleman wishes me to put the amendment as amended on the last Resolution or as it stands on the paper: he did not read it.

The RIGHT HONOURABLE V. S. SRINIVASA SASTRI: Yes, as amended

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: To the Resolution under consideration amendment moved:

"At the end of the Resolution the following be added:

'At the same time this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that an inquiry be made as to what action in regard to these matters is practicable and necessary in the case of plantations like those of tea and rubber and that the results of the inquiry be reported to this Council.'

That amendment and the main Resolution are susceptible of being discussed together and may be so discussed.

The HONOURABLE MR. D. T. CHADWICK: Sir, once more, my Right Honourable friend has been asking us to start on another inquiry which I do not think is at all necessary at present. To begin with, it would refer purely to plantations of tea and rubber and the agricultural labour engaged on those plantations. We have not attempted these maternity benefits in any way for other industries. I know that he does not look at this from the point of view of one industry or one employer but from the point of view of the social work with which he has been so long identified. If we start an inquiry of this kind, we ought to take it up in regard to the majority of our larger industries and not merely restrict it to the tea and rubber industries. We know from what he says himself that a large number of those employed on these estates are better treated and better looked after already than is the case in many of the industries on the plains, and I cannot see any reason for selecting these two for a somewhat invidious inquiry. Social legislation is always a matter of some difficulty. It is dangerous above all things to go absolutely ahead of the times. One wants to work alongside and with, to a certain extent, enlightened employers. Also when it comes to legislate, many of these matters relating to maternity become much more difficult. I understand that in some of these maternity benefits, certificates have to be got from the Doctor. This means house to house visits. Such house to house visits may be put up with perfectly rightly when they are done at the instance of humane and popular employers but may easily be resented when they are done at the instance of the State. In industries to which the Factories Act applies we have already restricted the hours of labour, the age at which children may be employed and the conditions of night work, and I cannot see any reason at all why in regard to those engaged on agriculture we should make an inquiry in regard to these two occupations and two occupations alone. We have enough social legislation on hand at present to prevent us making an inquiry into conditions in agriculture or sections of agriculture. For these reasons, Sir, I would ask the House to reject the amendment.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The question is that the following amendment be made:

"At the end of the Resolution under consideration the following be added:

'At the same time this Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that an inquiry be made as to what action in regard to these matters is practicable and necessary in the case of plantations like those of tea and rubber and that the results of the inquiry be reported to this Council.'

The motion was negatived.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The question is that the following Resolution be adopted:

"That this Council having considered the Recommendations concerning the protection before and after child-birth of women wage-earners in agriculture, the night work

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of women, children and young persons employed in agriculture and the living-in conditions of agricultural workers adopted by the Third Session of the International Labour Conference at Geneva in 1921, recommends to the Governor General in Council that legislation to secure their enforcement should not be introduced at the present time."

The motion was adopted.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Can the Leader of the House make any statement as to the future prospects of Government business?

The HONOURABLE DR. MIAN SIR MUHAMMAD SHAFI (Law Member): Sir, the next meeting of this Council for official business will be on Tuesday, the 13th February, and thereafter there will be meetings in February for official business on the 15th, 20th, 22nd and 27th February. The Bills which have been already passed by the Assembly will be taken up in this Chamber beginning from the 13th February. These Bills at present are the Indian Boilers Bill, the Indian Mines Bill, the Cantonments (House-Accommodation) Bill and the Cotton Transport Bill.

The HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I have a further announcement to make to the House and that is, His Excellency the Governor General has allotted two additional days in February in addition to those already allotted and mentioned in a Communiqué to Honourable Members. They are the 19th and the 21st February. A circular will be issued about the ballot for those days. The next non-official day, as I have already said, is the 12th. As Honourable Members are aware, we are hardly justified in having continuous meetings till more Bills are ready and there is more non-official business. The Chamber of Princes will also be sitting here next week.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 12th February 1923